

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 L-03 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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R 061530Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8117

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO MOVE RAPIDLY ON AZORES
BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: LISBON 5212 (DTG 031530Z AUG 76)

1. THE FULL TEXT OF SOARES'S PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMPT RESUMPTION OF THE AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PERTINENT TEXT READS AS FOLLOWS: "THE STUDY AND DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS (WITH THE USG) RELATIVE TO ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION FITS WITH GOVERNMENT'S ACTION PROGRAM; IN THIS REGARD, THE QUESTION OF THE AZORES AGREEMENT IMMEDIATELY COMES TO MIND. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CRITERIA OF PORTUGUESE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE INTERESTS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIME OF THE AZORES."

2. COMMENT: THE STRESS WHICH SOARES LAID ON
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PROMPT RENEGOTIATION OF THE AZORES AGREEMENT MAY

REFLECT A SOCIALIST PARTY DESIRE TO SEIZE THE
INITIATIVE ON THE ISSUE FROM THE PPD-CONTROLLED
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT NO DOUBT
ALSO VIEWS THE NEGOTIATIONS AS A WAY OF FINANCING A
PORTION OF ITS AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. BOTH
SOARES'S REMARKS AND THE PROGRAM TEXT UNDERSCORE
THAT EARLY NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AOZRES WILL BE HIGH
ON THE GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA.
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